California GARDEN

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR | SUMMER, 1954 | VOLUME 45, NO. 2

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

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Tuesday, June 18 . . Floral Bldg.
6 p.m. Supper; 8 p.m., Mrs. Margaret Wheatly, "Color in the Garden"

Friday, June 25
San Diego County Fair Opens

July 31, Aug. 1, Recital Hall, Balboa Park
San Diego County Dahlia Society

Aug. 7 and 8
Dahlia Show . Convair Garden Club

Aug. 14 and 15
La Mesa Flower Show

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California Garden

FORTY-FIFTH YEAR SUMMER, 1954 VOL. 45, NO. 2

Professor Stoutemyer gives credit for the influx of new plants in California to the present wave of popularity of tropical plantings. Choices of newcomers run the gamut from bamboos to flowering trees.

New or Little Known Plants in California

V. T. Stoutemyer
Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture
College of Agriculture
University of California at Los Angeles, California

Many new plants are appearing in California nurseries and gardens. Much of this interest in the often discouraging business of plant introduction is due to the present wave of popularity of tropical plantings. Plants which have this appearance and which will stand up outdoors under the ordinary temperatures of winter are not too plentiful. All of the following plants are available, although some are in limited supply. A list of very desirable species presented before the 1952 Convention of the California Association of Nurserymen and published in the *Pacific Coast Nurseryman* will be excluded from mention here. Many plants which could have been listed also are not mentioned, either because of extreme rarity or because their landscape value seems to be somewhat uncertain at the present time.

Palms and cycads undoubtedly are coming back into popularity. Many more species can be grown here than are commonly seen. Unfortunately, the early slow growth and scarcity of many desirable types keeps the list restricted to a few sorts.

A red foliaged form of *Cordyline australis,* although not new, is being propagated and made available again. It should be useful near redwood houses. Seed from open pollinated specimens does not come very true to color, and some seedlings which promise to be red, eventually turn green. This plant is useful near redwood houses. There are also some unusual colors of *Phormium tenax,* the New Zealand flax, in addition to the usual bronze forms.

One plant group in very great demand now is bamboo. A great many species can be grown in California, but some unusual and uniquely beautiful types exist only in a few clumps in obscure gardens and are not commercially available.

Bamboos are excellent interior plants. They will grow in situations back of plate glass window with southern exposure where almost nothing else will grow. They are outstanding for outdoor landscaping, but often they are not used properly. Perhaps the most unusual mistake is to let them pile up great masses of stems which destroy their natural gracefulness. It is best to prune out undesired shoots shortly after they appear. In old Chinese prints of gardens we often see clumps of the timber type of bamboo grown with only a few stems to give the effect of a tree.

Bamboos are excellent container plants if kept in locations where they do not dry out too rapidly. Some forms make excellent hedges. The various forms of *Bambusa multiplex* and the Metake bamboo, *Pseudosasa japonica,* are useful for this purpose.

Flowering trees are one of the most overlooked and neglected opportunities in landscape planting. They are being emphasized particularly by the organization "Los Angeles Beautiful" of the Women's Division of our local Chamber of Commerce. Some of the finest are for the milder areas only, but for the colder parts of the state there are some fine new deciduous magnolias and flowering peaches.

One of the most interesting trees whose possibilities became known recently is *Robinsonella cordata.* The blooming of several trees at a residence in Bel Air last spring excited unusual interest. This is an evergreen tree with good structure and a somewhat upright habit of growth. The effect is much like that of a jacaranda, but the season of bloom is much earlier.

The fine specimens of *Chorisia speciosa* at the Bel Air Hotel and at the main office of the Southern Automobile Club, near Adams

and Figueroa, are outstanding. The effect is much like that of a pink flowering dogwood, but the tree is massive in size and blooms in the fall. It is only for the milder areas.

A number of tropical trees with interesting foliage can now be considered as proven in the more favorable climatic areas of the area. One of these is the tree much used by several prominent landscape architects and sold by nurserymen, both here and in the San Francisco area, as *Persea borbonia.* However, this is an error and the tree is actually *Persea indica.* Although the former species can be grown here, it is never particularly vigorous or attractive.

An interesting small tree with large round leaves is *Thespesia populnea,* a hibiscus relative. The leaves often have a ruddy cast in sun. Somewhat similar foliage and flowers are in shrub form in *Wercklea insignis.*

Aleurites moluccana, an evergreen tree with attractive foliage familiar to visitors to the Hawaiian Islands, has been successful. Another exotic tree, *Pterotropia pinnata,* an Araliad, is small and has unusual leaves three feet long which become increasingly hairy with age. The growth is somewhat open. When young, it is a good shrub or patio plant.

Other members of the family, *Araliaceae,* are particularly numerous among the new introductions. All of them have striking foliage which suggests the tropical. Nearly all are excellent plants for growing in tubs in patios. They are good specimen shrubs and some will attain the size of small trees.

The new variegated *Fatshedera* will prove to be a welcome variation of this useful plant. Most of the newer introductions in the group appear to be reasonably useful in coastal California. The hardiness of many has not been determined fully. *Tetraplasandra hawaiiensis* is probably somewhat tender. *Nothopanax arboreum* is good in southern California but *N. laetum* seems to need the fog belt for best development.

Deciduous trees have certain definite values in planting design. Many new sorts are coming in and seem to be at home climatically, although how they compare in value with sorts already grown is uncertain. Particularly numerous are new species of oaks from the subtropical regions of the world.

Myrciaria edulis has been sold as a fruit tree. It has a fruit somewhat like a sweet cherry. The foliage is refined and similar to that of *Eugenia myrtifolia (E. paniculata australis)* except that it does not have a bronzy tint. It should be useful as an ornamental.

Several new plants have unusual foliage. *Eriobotrya deflexa* has a dense bushy growth with long leaves. The foliage has a somewhat bronzy tint and is quite distinct from that of the usual loquat. It should be useful in floral arrangements. The plant should be useful in espaliers. A newly introduced form of *Aucuba japonica* is called "Goldiana" and has a solid yellow variegated center of the leaf with a green edge. It is unusual and distinctive, but has a somewhat slow growth as might be expected. A new form of castor bean with deep red leaves at all seasons of the year should be useful for planting around redwood houses. One of the most unusual of the foliage plants is a banana with a white variegated leaf. This is still scarce, but should be valuable in the tropical plantings.

From the standpoint of unusual color, a valuable introduction is a newly introduced form of *Beloperone guttata* which has chartreuse green bracts in place of the familiar bronzy type. This new mutation should create a much wider use for this fine shrub.

The new patented hybrid lantana "Gold Rush" is a good trailing form in a good clear yellow. It is a most valuable plant since it brings a new color into the type of plant represented by *Lantana sellowiana.* A worthy ground cover for less favored areas climatically is *Ceanothus griseus horizontalis.* This has all of the advantages of California native plants.

A neat low growing plant which appears to be worthy of use in coastal areas is *Hebe* Autumn Glory. The foliage is dense and refined. The flower clusters are blue and somewhat small, but it does give fall color.

We are undoubtedly in a period of great general interest in camellias. The group which is attracting particular attention now is the sasanquas. Varieties with outstanding flowers are constantly being introduced. *Camellia sasanqua* includes an unusual range of plant habits, which makes them well adpted to a wide variety of landscape uses.

Another noble new race of camellias is termed the "Williamsii" hybrids, produced in Cornwall, England, and only recently imported into California. These are outstanding landscape plants and bloom during the middle of the camellia season. The variety, J. C. Williams, is perhaps the most easily obtainable locally.

A somewhat similar group of hybrids is typified by Cornish Snow which, however, is a hybrid of *Camellia cuspidata* and *Camellia saluenensis.*

The newly introduced varieties of *Camellia reticulata* are undoubtedly too expensive for the average gardener. However, the flowers of some of these are of outstanding merit. This species is an outdoor plant only in the milder areas of the state.

Mr. Quintana, California Garden *science editor, describes the roles taken by nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and lesser elements in the life and death drama of our gardens.*

Trace Elements in Plant Nutrition

Frank C. Quintana

When gardeners get to talking about fertilizers and plant nutrients, they are most generally talking in terms of nitrogen. This is not surprising because our California soils have a reputation for being deficient in this essential element. It is necessary for the hobbyist to supply a comparatively large amount of nitrogen to his plants if he desires a thrifty growth each season. More advanced plantsmen will debate the merits of the so-called balanced fertilizers—those that are formulated to contain varying ratios of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. For most of us, these three elements constitute the entire list of essential plant nutrients, and other elements are regarded as soil conditioners rather than as indispensable sustenance. Sulfur is perhaps a good example, being looked upon more often as an acidifying agent than as a specific plant food. It is of the greatest interest to note that, as a consequence of exhaustive studies in plant nutritional requirements, a number of substances other than the ones mentioned above have been shown to be essential to the health and growth of the higher green plants. Oddly enough, several of these substances are required in only exceedingly minute amounts, but still, their presence or absence in the nutrient medium will determine the life or death of garden subjects.

Before going further, a word or two of explanation should be incorporated into this discussion. Throughout the following text, reference will be made to various chemical elements and their relative importance in plant nutrition. It should be clearly understood that plants rarely utilize the elements as such. Instead, the roots absorb soluble chemical compounds of these various elements from the soil water. For example, nitrogen is absorbed in the form of nitrates, ammonia, urea, and so on; phosphorus is absorbed in the form of various phosphates; sulfur as sulfates, etc. The notation using the name of the chemical element has been adopted for convenience and simplicity in discussion. Thus, in describing a fertilizer, the word "nitrogen" is used to indicate a nitrogen-containing compound.

It may be said quite properly that any substance applied to the soil to assist the growth of plants is a fertilizer. Today, there exists a rather arbitrary classification of such substances into two groups—organic fertilizers and commercial fertilizers. The chief distinction between these two may be stated generally: that organic fertilizers tend to operate indirectly by increasing plant growth through the improvement of the soil, while the commercial soluble salts act directly as a plant food without effecting an improvement of the soil.

History of the Trace Elements

The value of manure in agriculture and horticulture has been appreciated by growers as far back as the records go. But, why this material is beneficial, and what relationship its constituents have in regard to plant growth, are questions that have been answered only in the last century. Discoveries concerning these relationships have led to the common use today of commercial fertilizers.

According to the *Americana,* the earliest mention of the use of soluble mineral salts (commercial fertilizer) was made in 1660, when Sir Kenelm Digby reported to the Society for Promoting Philosophical Knowledge by Experiments his successful use of saltpetre. "By the help of plain saltpetre, diluted in water and mingled with some fit earthly substance,—I have made the barrenest ground outgrow the richest, in giving a prodigiously plentiful harvest." Sir Digby's choice of saltpetre (potassium nitrate) appears to have been a lucky guess, since the balance of his presentation showed no real knowledge of the reason for crop increase. It was not until about a hundred and fifty years later that a brilliant French investigator, Saussre, proved that the plant obtained its mineral components from the soil. In this enlightened age, it seems hard to believe that there could be any doubt about where the plant obtained its food.

In the 1840's, Justus von Liebig demonstrated the essentialness of phosphorus and potassium salts for growth of plants, and thereby fathered the chemical fertilizer industry. Because of other significant contributions, Liebig was a scientific giant of his time, and his opinions carried great weight. He made two mistakes, one of which continues to plague us today: he was convinced that nitrogen was unimportant, and that the rain dissolved enough ammonia out of the air to satisfy the

plant's needs, and he also felt that humus was of no importance at all.

By the turn of the century, a list of chemical elements considered to be the final word had been formulated. The big ten were carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, potassium, phosphorus, sulfur, calcium, iron and magnesium. The first three of these are obtained by the plant from air and water, and the latter seven are regarded as the essential components of the nutrient medium (soil). Chemical analysis of plant materials had shown other elements to be present, but this evidence provided ground for speculation only. Early investigators had no means at their disposal for proving the essentialness of these other elements. Some researchers did observe that minute amounts of certain elements added to culture media produced beneficial effects. But this led to the supposition that stimulating effects could be made on plant growth if certain toxic materials were applied to the plants in extremely dilute solutions.

In 1914, a perceptive French scientist, Mazé, became convinced that other chemical elements than the big ten were necessary to plant growth. He believed that these elements existed as impurities in the culture solutions. Working along this line of reasoning, he proceeded to purify his chemicals with great care, and was able to collect evidence that deficiencies of copper, zinc and manganese would produce symptoms of malnutrition. These symptoms could be relieved by applying the specific missing items. Mazé's ideas were not at all well received, and in some quarters were regarded as heresy. In the face of the evidence he produced, the teaching continued to declare that the only essentials were the aforementioned big ten.

In 1922 overwhelming evidence was presented showing that manganese must be considered as essential as any of the big ten. Other discoveries followed. In 1927, boron was added to the list, and in the thirties, zinc and copper were shown to be absolute requisites. More recently, molybdenum and cobalt have been proven indispensable. The closed corporation attitude that surrounded the big ten no longer exists.

Not Plant Tonics

This sketchy history of the minor elements has been traced to demonstrate that here is no momentary fad. This is a significant chunklet in the puzzle of understanding our one world. These elements possess neither magic properties, nor do they act as plant tonics. They are part of the total nutritional requirement of the plant, and every bit as important as nitrogen, phosphorus or potassium. They are minor only in the sense that the amounts in which they are required by the plants are exceedingly minute. The term "minor elements" is better avoided because of its connotation; more frequently they are referred to as "micronutrients," or "trace elements."

Causes of Trace Element Deficiency

Any discussion about the trace elements might best be entitled, "Much Ado About Almost Nothing." It hardly seems likely that substances which are required in such minute amounts are likely to be in short supply in any garden. But, there's the rub! A great many soils are commonly found to be deficient in iron, manganese, boron, zinc, copper, cobalt and molybdenum. Even when these elements are plentiful, they are frequently bound up in chemical combinations unavailable to the plant, or physiologically useless to it.

Deficiencies of these elements are caused by several factors. The chemical combinations in which they usually exist are readily soluble substances, and as such are easily leached out of the feeding-root zone of the soil. Our old friend "pH" influences the availability of the trace elements. As the pH goes up (becomes alkaline) the trace elements become useless or unabsorbable by the plant roots. Intensive growing programs will use up the T. E. content of the soil, and while this might be more of a farming problem, the never-ending growing season enjoyed by the California style gardener produces similar effects. Clean cultivation, or normal gardener-type housekeeping doesn't allow for a return of the trace elements to flower beds and borders. Leaves and other debris dropped by the growing plants are removed before this material can decompose and return its store of trace elements to the soil. Apparent deficiencies occur when physico-chemical effects make it

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impossible for the plant to obtain its normal requirements from soil containing ample quantities of these elements. And finally, certain soil organisms seem to interfere with the normal foraging of the plant's roots.

Effect of T. E. Deficiency

The results of T. E. deficiency might generally be described as die-back and chlorosis. Iron deficiency produces a severe yellowing between the veins of the upper leaves of the plant. With chrysanthemums, the veins become light. In severe conditions, the entire leaf becomes yellow. Boron starvation results in the die-back of the terminal bud. The top leaves become thick and brittle. The most usual symptom of manganese deficiency is the yellowing of the areas between the veins of the top leaves and the simultaneous appearance of small necrotic areas (dead spots) in the central part of the leaf. The plant becomes stunted, and the leaves have a netted appearance due to the fact that the veins remain green. Manganese is believed to be involved in the plant's utilization of nitrogen, and in the making of chlorophyll and carbohydrates.

Copper deficiencies cause varying symptoms with various plants, but the effect might be generally described as die-back. Tips of the plants become distorted, shrivel and die. Copper appears, like manganese, to be involved in the growth-regulating enzymes. It has been found that if copper is removed from these enzymes, they become inactive. Zinc governs the function of "auxins" which in turn regulate the growth of plants. Citrus trees seem to be especially susceptible to zinc deficiency, and produce symptoms of what is called "mottle-leaf disease" when zinc is low. This particular disease baffled plant physiologists for twenty years, until it was discovered that by treating the soil with zinc compounds, or spraying the leaves of the tree with solutions of zinc compounds, the disease could be cured. Treatment of the soil with zinc compounds made the introduction of Tung trees into Florida a successful operation. In Hawaii, pineapple plants grown in certain soils produced abnormal, twisted leaves. This condition was diagnosed to be the result of zinc deficiency, and was promptly remedied by a program of zinc sprays. Deciduous fruit trees in California suffer from "little-leaf" disease. This problem was also a baffler for many years until treatment with zinc in the presence of iron solved the difficulty.

In the Florida Department of Agriculture Experiment Station, a program was started some years ago in which part of an orange grove was given a full complement of trace elements in combination with the usual nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. The balance of the grove was supplied the usual three (N, P, K) only. Trees getting the combination fertilizer containing the trace elements not only produced much bigger fruit, better juice and consistently higher vitamin C content, but were *greatly resistant to frost damage.* In the 1940 freeze, trees getting only N, P, and K were ruinously defoliated; whereas, trees in the same orchard getting the complete fertilizer containing the trace elements were practically undamaged.

Corrective Measures

It is said in some of the references on T. E. that the "dooryard" gardener is not likely to be bothered by trace element deficiencies. The authors apparently never attend garden club meetings, or they would constantly hear questions about "What causes my such-and-such plant to have yellow leaves?" or "How come my roses die back?" or "Why is the fruit on my orange tree so poor?" and so on. The forum being so questioned is frequently on the spot for the reason that the plant's condition cannot be actually seen, and the description of the condition is usually somewhat vague. As often as not, it *could* be a trace element problem.

The most direct recommendation for avoiding such difficulties is to use a sensibly balanced fertilizing program: combined use of organic materials to improve

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soil conditions and commercial fertilizers to feed the plants directly. Composts, manures and forest litter (leaf mold) are to be recommended for re-supplying your soil with trace elements. As a remedy for an already existing insufficiency, they are slow acting.

Application of zinc, copper and manganese sulfates to the soil could help a serious condition, but the value of these treatments is lessened by: (1) the solubility of these salts, and their consequent rapid dissipation to deep soil levels, and (2) their frequent rapid fixation by the existing soil condition. Spraying the plants with solutions of these substances is a useful technique, but it has one hazard. These chemicals are in the nature of being general fungicides and bactericides, and, as such, will reduce the natural parasites that prey on scale and other garden pests. It is possible, therefore, but not entirely necessary, that some increase in these pests might follow a program of foliar applications.

Two new materials making their way onto the shelves of your favorite nurseryman will be of value in this trace element problem. The first of these comprises the Agricultural Sequesterenes. These chemicals are compounds of iron, copper, manganese and zinc, and are chemically described as chelates. There is an excellent report in the March issue of *Sunset* describing the successful use of an iron chelate in treating chlorosis. These compounds are being produced by the Geigy Corporation, manufacturers of agricultural chemicals, who have found through extensive experiments that trace element chelates are of great benefit in producing thrifty deep green leaves on a large number of ornamental plants. One of the most interesting features of the action of the chelated compounds is that it is not affected by high pH (alkaline) soil conditions.

The second material is sold under the trademark Fritted Trace Elements. This is a unique device for improving and maintaining a proper level of trace elements in your soil for comparatively long periods of time. F. T. E. is made by adding the various trace elements to a molten ceramic material, and after special heat treatment, is poured into running cold water. As the molten material hits the water it is cooled suddenly and breaks into thousands of tiny pieces. The resultant agricultural frit (F. T.E.) is essentially an insoluble glass which nevertheless will supply trace elements for plant growth. Plant roots coming into contact with it absorb zinc, copper, manganese, etc., as required. Experiments have shown real benefit to roses, azaleas, gardenias and camellias. Field tests in California have given definite indications that F.T. E. does not become fixed in alkaline soils. The particles hold their identity and seem to supply a constant source of minor elements to plants, regardless of the pH of the soil. It has been further reported that excellent turf develops from the use of F. T. E. in lawns.

Our first junior contributor, William Burnett, submits an article on cacti for the fall issue of California Garden.

Future generations will thank the foresightedness and unselfish devotion of the Solana Beach Women's Civic Club to a program which will have far-reaching benefits.

The Little Town You Won't Forget

THELMAR CRAWFORD

Solana Beach, located on the South Coast a couple of miles north of Del Mar, is such a small town that you speed through it almost without being aware of its existence. A huddle of stores, a few filling stations, the aluminum buildings of the Jack plant, houses climbing a high hill to overlook the sea—it's just another beach town strung out along Highway 101.

But if you drive by while women with hoes and grass cutters are working on the mile and a half planting of trees and shrubbery along the highway, you take another look and begin to realize that Solana is different. The people care about beautifying the place they call home and have gone to great trouble and expense to do so. By the sheer determination of Solana Beach women they have made a project work where most other towns have failed.

The secret, of course, is in organization. It would not be possible to spend hundreds of dollars on trees and flowers and keep them watered for the many months necessary in a spot where the average rainfall is never over six or seven inches a year, unless many people united in the effort. And in Solana, the Women's Civic Club, organized in February, 1953, has as its main goal making Solana Beach the prettiest, most heart-warming town on the South Coast.

Starting with nothing except a driving urge to succeed, the club launched into several money making endeavors that brought in not only more local women interested in helping, but also nice sums of cash. Seven hundred dollars profit made from the first Trash and Treasure sale was set aside to finance the highway planting. Permission had to be secured from both the Santa Fe Railroad and the Highway Commission before anything could be done on the right-of-way.

The Highway Commisison made it very clear that it could give no assistance in watering. So did the local Fire Department when approached. Some clause in fire insurance contracts calls for fire equipment to be instantly available, and therefore it cannot be used elsewhere even for so worthy a cause.

To the little group meeting in Blanche Kintz's living room to pore over the details of the planting, the problems came thick and fast. They tried to choose greenery that would be drought resistant, and yet adapted to the sea coast to withstand sea winds. Two men, Charles Leffingwell, a professional gladioli grower, and Robert Murray, local nurseryman, helped with selections and expert

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SOLANA BEACH, CALIFORNIA

advice. It was Mr. Murray who made the best buy possible on the stock selected, and he was hired by the club to plant it.

Die-hards who can always predict disaster in any undertaking shook their heads and muttered that the trees were being planted at the wrong time of year and would not survive the hot summer. Perhaps they would have been right but for the courage of Mrs. Avis Thompson who took over as chairman in charge of planting. Ably asisted by Mrs. Golliwitzer, Mrs. Murfin, Mrs. Barnhardt and Mrs. Flath, she left no source unexplored in her effort to work out the problem of how to water a mile and a half of trees successfully.

All the early plans to solve it went for nothing. Local equipment that could be rented was painfully inadequate and took days to accomplish the task. The Civic Club voted extra funds to pay for watering, and launched card parties and bakery sales to help meet the expense. Soon the fall rains would start, everybody kept saying, and then the trees would be over the worst period.

But of course the fall rains did not come. It did not rain until January, and by then thirty-five trees and shrubs had died. But the Civic Club was too busy trying to solve the problem to listen to the ones who had said it was a fool idea, anyway. How to replace those trees? How to water them?

At a meeting called to consider ways and means it was suggested that the club put on a drive for flowering trees to be tied in with California Arbor Day, March 7. A publicity campaign was launched and the town was asked to contribute memorial trees for the dead. The club promised to mark each tree permanently and to keep a map showing where such trees were located.

But soon someone wanted to put out a tree for a living person. Why not? To encourage the idea the Civic Club announced that it would plant a tree each year honoring its president, and arranged a ceremony in appreciation of the work of Mrs. David Smith. The post office took up a collection and planted an acacia for Mr. Witmer, retiring after many years of service. A local couple, celebrating twenty-five years of happily married life spent in Solana Beach, put out a tree commemorating the occasion. And, of course, after some one came up with the idea of planting trees for children and grandchildren, the sale of flowering trees went up sharply.

Grandchildren's row became the most impressive planting of all, and even after the drive was over people are still asking to have such trees placed. The last gift was a group of ten trees donated by George Dose, who asked that two of them be marked simply with question marks!

Gift trees numbered around sixty. Since each tree averaged five dollars in cost and presented a problem in planting, it was proof that Solana Beach plans to back the Women's Civic Club.

Recently the club voted more hard-earned money to buy a 250-gallon tank mounted on a trailer, and various business firms have agreed to help man the tank during the summer.

Out of this effort has come the realization that the town needs a master plan worked out for the most effective use of flowers and greenery, and three local artists are at work on such a program. The County Planning Board has offered the services of its landscape architect, since county property figures in the scheme. The Santa Fe Railroad has become interested enough to send frequent clean-up crews, and to plow a firebreak the entire length of the planting.

Help comes from every direction once you can convince the world that you mean to succeed. In time Solana will be the prettiest small town on the South Coast, simply because forty-five women of the Civic Club will make it so. Hardly a week passes that someone doesn't contact Mrs. Thompson and say: "Can you use a truck load of aloes? How about some mock oranges? Have you thought about statice and geraniums? They will survive with little water. . . ."

You can't remember passing through Solana Beach? Give us five years, say the women of the Solana Women's Civic Club. Then ours will be the little town you can't forget!

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Is Marion a little rough on Henry's new friend? Distrustful, perhaps.

Leaves From The Observer's Notebook

Marion Almy Lippitt

Midsummer lethargy lay on the garden's riot of color like a hushing hand on a boisterous child. Having dispatched the children to Sunday school, and being dressed for church myself, I wandered itno the garden to pick a coral *Florabunda Margo Costa rose*. Somehow, my gray chiffon dress and black velvet hat demanded it. As I snipped several clusters of blooms and buds, I heard the click of the wagon-wheel gate at the end of the path.

Turning, I saw Henry stand and look at something he held in the palm of his hand. After apparently engaging it in animated conversation, he placed it carefully upon the ground. I was too far away to distinguish the nature of our guest. I stood for what seemed an eternity. Like patience on a monument, I waited for them to reach me.

Henry glanced from side to side as he sauntered very slowly toward me. He stopped now and then to address a remark in a low tone to his companion.

I peered at the ground all around him, but could see nothing. I looked at my watch lest we be late for church. Then as they drew near, I couldn't believe my eyes.

"Well, now I've seen everything," I exclaimed, "It's a snail crawling beside you!"

Henry replied, "I read that to really enjoy a garden one should walk through it at a snail's pace."

A sparkle of delight shone in his eyes as he viewed my astonishment. He knew he had caught me off guard.

I rallied at once. "What did you see as you came through the garden?"

"Insects that hung from the rays of the sun like marionettes on a string, and an Inca dove that lifted one wing, opened its beak and yawned as if just awakening from a rough night. I saw cloud number seven drifting across a deep blue sky, making a backdrop for a flock of small birds. I could not recognize the species. They flew in formation as if on a trial run for migration. They soared, dipped, and wheeled in an incredible exhibition of precision flying. I felt sure I was witnessing a dress-rehearsal. August isn't too soon for birds to begin to make plans for migration."

This was my day for amazement. Henry was displaying knowledge I did not know he possessed. I challenged his last statement.

"I thought," I advanced, "that Southern California birds went north for the summer, and not south for the winter."

"True, some go north for the summer," Henry agreed. "But there are many species which go south for the winter."

"Name me two," I said, hoping to trip up his glibness. I should have known better. Not inappropriately had someone middle-named him "Henry Get-The-Facts Lippitt."

"Two who go south for the winter are yellow warblers and vireos."

I felt it was time to change the subject.

"What else did you see during your garden stroll?" I asked.

"I saw nature's original helicopter—a ruby-throated humming bird. It is the only creature I know that can fly backwards. As for speed, it can pass an automobile travelling fifty miles an hour. Its wings move seventy-five beats a second, and four thousand five hundred a minute. It is known to cover five hundred miles of open water when migrating across the Gulf of Mexico. To do this the tiny wings beat two million times without pause."

I put my hand to my head and reeled slightly. "It staggers the imagination. That's enough. You don't need to tell me any more about humming birds."

Henry had been giving out information as if he contained a concealed victrola record.

I straightened up and looked him in the eye. "Come clean," I said. "What have you been reading?"

"Edward Way Teale's *Circle of the Season,"* replied Henry rather proudly.

"I thought as much. It seems to me that you could be held for plagiarism on that line about the marionettes."

"I know," answered Henry without a quiver, "but 'imitation is the sincerest form of flattery'."

"You are incorrigible," I said, shaking my head. "Come on, it's time to start for church. You need to learn some Christian ethics."

"Says you!" retorted Henry absently, looking down as if reluctant to leave his friend, the snail.

I hadn't the heart to remind him of all the damage snails do, or that I would probably sink his friend in a pail of salt water that very evening.

Bauhinia, illustrated on the cover, can be grown in certain forms in Southern California, includes in its family some of the loveliest tropical small trees and climbing shrubs.

Bauhinia

Alfred C. Hottes

Baw-hin' i-ah. Named for John and Casper Bauhin, XVI century herbalists. Family *Leguminosae,* related to Peas.

The Bauhinias include some of the loveliest tropical small trees and climbing shrubs. They are characterized by 2-lobed leaves that seem folded, and it was because of these twin-leaves that the plant was named for the two brother botanists, John and Casper Bauhin.

Bauhinia variegata (so called *purpurea) (triandra), (grandiflora)* Purple Bauhinia, (Orchid-tree), (Mountain-ebony). A native of Burma, India, and China, this is a rounded shrub or tree 15 feet tall with white or rosy-orchid flowers, marked purple. The season varies from January to April. The color varies greatly, and one might be inclined to call them different varieties or species, but the usual horticulturist has not so designated them. These trees bear the largest flowers of any of the Bauhinias and are indeed a glorious sight when they are in bloom.

Alice Eastwood wrote that the true *B. purpurea* has narrow petals and is not cultivated in southern California.

Culture. The Purple Bauhinia is not so good near the coast in the West, being susceptible to wind and frost. It is, however, better in the hotter regions. It stands a temperature of 20 degrees and loses its leaves when frosted. Keep the plants moist during the growing season. It likes a peaty loam. The leaves often appear burnt, perhaps due to the salts in San Diego soil, or too great wind exposure. Robert Calvin suggests that digging in colloidal sulfur might prevent the unsightly leaves when grown in an improper soil.

Bauhinia galpini, Red B., (Camelsfoot). Illustrated on the cover. This is a half climbing shrub as sometimes seen, but it may be a compact, dense, self-supporting specimen plant when so pruned. It grows to a height of 10 feet and is literally covered with brick-red (Nasturtium-orange) flowers through the summer, autumn, and even mild winter. Occasionally, during the coldest winters the leaves are shed, but, otherwise, the leaves are evergreen. It is a native of south and tropical Africa.

Culture. Evans says that it wants the hottest and sunniest place possible and thrives with good drainage.

Uses. It makes an excellent specimen shrub, wider than high, and may also be trained on trellises placed against a warm wall.

Bauhinia tomentosa (Alvesia), St. Thomas B., (Sweetheart B.). This is an erect shrub or small tree from India, China, and Africa. The branches, leaves, and seedpods are downy. The flowers are yellow, with a large brown or chocolate blotch on one petal, bell-shaped, somewhat nodding. The leaves are one inch long, broader than long and sometimes downy beneath. So the books describe this species, but as we see it, there is no evidence of pubescence. Some one told me that what we grow as *B. galpini* is really *B. tahitiensis.*

Culture. It seems to thrive in full sun and is tolerant of any soil.

Bauhinia corymbosa, called Phanera in Hawaii. This is an evergreen climber branching freely from the soil. It is a native to western China. The flowers are pinkish white about 1½ inches in diameter. The stamens are red. The flowers are produced in large clusters (corymbs or loose racemes). The leaves are lobed to the middle as usually seen.

Bauhinia forficata is a white-flowered species distinct from the white variety of *B. variegata.* The flowers have long-narrow strap-shape petals. The leaves are long and forked beyond the middle. The trees are of good form. Several nurserymen sell this as *B. corniculata* but that species has leaves which are obtuse at the tips and petals are an inch wide.

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Under auspices of the San Diego Floral Association, Paul D. Peery, Carillonneur, has been commissioned to play recitals honoring late San Diegans whose noteworthy efforts were to make San Diego a better place in which to live.

Carillon Recitals

July 4, 1954

In Memory of

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Allen

1859-1927
1858-1949

In 1883 Russell Allen and Joseph Weddle, both from Boston, bought 640 acres in the Dehesa Valley.

In 1888 Russell Allen and Ella Bradford Copeland were married in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Russell Allen brought his bride to the ranch in Dehesa where they lived until he became manager of the Sweetwater Fruit Company in 1893, then they moved to Bonita. Mr. Allen was an active member of his community and the first president of San Diego's University Club.

Ella Bradford Allen loved young people. Her house was always full of them. She wanted to see them happy. She gave parties for them. She took them on picnics and on camping trips. She was never without a project on hand.

It is because of her love of young activities that the Ella B. Allen Public elementary school in Bonita is named after her.

Trained by her father, Robert Morris Copeland, landscape architect and planner of the Boston Public Gardens, she developed an interest in all kinds of plants, particularly in propagating natives. On a pack trip of young people to the San Pedro Martyr Mountain in Mexico she carried with her a bag into which she put seeds of plants that caught her fancy. Today there grows in Bonita a *Fremontia Mexicana* that she brought back from that trip. From the same trip came the white primroses which cover the bank by her daughter's house today.

Mrs. Allen's civic activities were many. Her philanthropy extended not only to any one in need but to every stray cat and dog. The Allens were, indeed, creative pioneers.

Recital sponsored by
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Copeland Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Minot Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Butler E. Ward
Mr. and Mrs. A. Ellis Barron

August 8, 1954

In Memory of

Mrs. William Robinson

1866-1944

In 1898, a year after the death of her husband, William Willson Robinson, in Peoria, Illinois, Mrs. Robinson came to California with her only child, Ruth. After stopping with friends in Pasadena, Mrs. Robinson came to La Jolla to be near other old friends, the Misses Mary, Rebecca, and Gertrude Halley, and their mother.

Mrs. Robinson immediately took up the profession which she had pursued before her marriage, that of newspaper correspondent. From La Jolla she began writing for *The San Diego Union* and *Tribune*. The association with these papers soon brought Mrs. Robinson to Hotel del Coronado where for eight years she gathered material for a column in the *Union* over her signature, this being one of the first instances in which a newspaper publicized one of its reporters by name.

While engaged in newspaper work Mrs. Robinson became very active in opposing the eviction of the Indians from Warner's Ranch, and went to Washington to intercede on their behalf. But her efforts, together with those of many other public-spirited citizens, were futile and the Indians were forcibly removed from the land which had been the home of their ancestors throughout countless generations.

Mrs. Robinson had spent some years of her youth in Peoria in the home of her mother's brother, Robert G. Ingersoll, the orator and agnostic philosopher, and on one occasion she was privileged to be among those who accompanied him on a lecture tour.

Mrs. Robinson's many friends will remember her most vividly seated at her desk between two telephones in her office in the Granger Building which she occupied for a term longer than that of any other of its tenants. She was a member of the Wednesday Club, and, of course, of the Floral Association, for many years.

Paul D. Peery, Carillonneur
Recital sponsored by
Dr. Joshua L. Bailey, Jr.
Mrs. Ruth Ingersoll Bailey

September 12, 1954

In Memory of

Mary A. Greer

1854-1948

For thirty-nine years Mary A. Greer directed the activities of the San Diego Floral Association serving as director, vice-president and its president from 1926 to 1948. After every flower show she

closed and locked the door, saying with a satisfied smile, "It's the best show we've ever had."

Nothing daunted her indomitable spirit or enthusiasm in holding the Association to its highest aims for civic betterment and beautification. Her high standards, her ability to organize, her physical endurance, her understanding and beautiful character were almost phenomenal. They endeared her to all her associates.

At the age of ten Mary Garrison came with her parents from London, England, to St. Joseph, Missouri. There the family joined a covered wagon train headed for Salt Lake City, Utah. Mary walked most of the way because her mother was ill and there was no room for a child in the wagon.

In 1872 Mary married the young architect William Greer. They moved to Berkeley, California, where Mrs. Greer was graduated from the University of California.

In 1890 the Greers came to San Diego by the steamship *Santa Rosa* with their two small daughters.

Miss Alice Rainford writes of Mrs. Greer, "It is fitting that floral folk should bring a bouquet to place on the altar of memory in honor of our dear Mrs. Greer. There should be red roses, emblematic of her warm affection for her friends. Lilies would signify the strength, dignity and poise of her character. There would be forget-me-nots to tell of those dear old days when Mrs. Greer, Miss Sessions and Mr. Robinson accomplished wonders at the flower shows of our then small city. We would bring pansies for her thoughtfulness and consideration to everyone, and perhaps water lilies for her coolness and calmness in the midst of confusion. How we admired all those qualities in her and how we miss her guidance!"

Mrs. Greer

Mary A. Greer has, indeed, made San Diego a better place in which to live.

Recital sponsored by
Alice M. Greer

Plant Allergy

In the next edition of this magazine your editors plan to publish the first of a series of articles on the relationship of plant life to allergic diseases. We would appreciate receiving comments and suggestions, as well as questions you may wish to have answered, prior to the publication of these articles. These articles will be written by Roy A. Ouer, M.D., a specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic disorders, who is also a specialist in internal medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Allergists, a member of the American Academy of Allergy, and is the author of numerous articles in the field of allergy. We believe these articles will be of great interest to our readers.

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Mrs. Henry Castleton, Van Nuys, formerly of La Jolla, says that it's easy to build a barbecue, almost has us convinced.

It's Easy to Build a Barbecue

CHAFFEE CASTLETON

I found it easier than falling off a log to build a barbecue. I built mine in a mad moment with about twenty cast-off bricks, a rusty piece of iron granite, and a grate I found in an empty lot.

Yet this same barbecue has been a whale of a success, proving not only its usefulness, but what is more important (when you have twenty hungry people standing around) its faithfulness, at scores of parties. It has never let me down. What started out as a joke proved to be worth its weight in gold.

It has fed broiled steaks, chops, hamburgers, wieners and toasted buns to scores of people at a time.

We have also successfully warmed huge slabs of pizza on it, when we have had our pizza parties. For those who don't know what "pizza" is, let me add right here that I didn't either until I came to inhabit the San Fernando Valley, in Southern California. Then I grew to like this rich doughy Italian favorite.

Friends who have portable barbecues of colonial wrought iron, which ofttimes work but fitfully, depending on the quarter the wind is blowing from, the tides, and the phase of the moon, gaze in envy at my Leaning Tower of Pizza. It never fails.

Other friends whose huge expensive fancy barbecues of brick-and-chrome, hot-and-cold running water, cabinets to hold 100-piece china sets, and a built-in ping-pong table, tell me in awed tones that mine of cast-off junk is every bit as successful as theirs, and sometimes more so.

The secret of my barbecue's success is *ventilation*. In fact, there is more ventilation than barbecue!

With the bricks, which a friend gave me in an unguarded moment, I built a low tower about 15 inches in diameter, and about three feet high, or five layers of bricks laid on their side.

I placed the bricks so far apart that only their corners touch. Hence there is just as much air space as bricks.

Then I wanted a sheet of metal to lie under the coals. I went to a junk yard and espied a round piece of iron-granite, about 18 inches in diameter, and rejoiced to see that it was full of holes.

"Oh that!" said the Junk Prince with infinite scorn. "It's worthless. It's from an old washing machine, and is rusted full of holes."

After assuring him that it was just what I was seeking, he gave it to me, glad to be rid of it. This cast-off relic of the machine age I triumphantly placed on the top layer of my brick tower.

I arranged four bricks around the edge, to hold the grate, which, as I said, I stumbled across in an empty lot.

Wood, charcoal, coal, or briquettes burn like anything on my Leaning Tower, because there is so much encouragement of draft.

Did I say *encouragement?*

At times the wind howls through the cracks like wind in the rigging of a storm-tossed ship, and it has been known to blow the buns away.

I pour a little coal-oil over whatever fuel I use, as a starter, and

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luckily have never had the smell or taste of mineral oil as garnish to my meat.

Another engaging feature of this novel phenomenon is that it converts to a bird-bath when not in use as a barbecue. I lay a pottery flower-pot base on top, instead of the grate, and keep it filled with water.

But back to the barbecue. Being only three feet high and made of a few used bricks, it leans engagingly into the wind, as my building eye is not exactly *plumb*.

One of its most attractive features is that it is *inconspicuous*. I know the trend is in the opposite direction, but I have always been one to champion the under dog.

Haven't you sometime or other, as guest, stood on your friend's back steps or in his patio, and gazed with awe, a trifle intimidated, at a magnificent edifice of wrought iron and brick, not quite like an Aztec temple, which dwarfs the home of your host as a mansion does the gatekeeper's cottage?

No, my Leaning Tower wouldn't scare a sowbug. It blends in beautifully with the garden, adding an even more rustic note to the bucolic surroundings, made so by my fitful inattention.

As an added touch, because it happens to be set near an ivy bed, some groping tendrils already are curling around my "Leaning Tower of Pizza."

Take heart, dear reader. You, too, can build a barbecue.

Mrs. Eugene Daney, outgoing president of the San Diego Floral Association, could just as well have been a journalist, after a look into her family background.

Stella Daney

JANET RICHARDS

We have just learned that Mrs. Eugene Daney, retiring president of the San Diego Floral Association, comes of a family that has long been involved with the newspaper business. Her father published the *Willets News* in 1909. Willets, if unknown to the reader, is north of San Francisco on the road to the Redwood Empire. Mrs. Daney's mother, Emma Carlyle, did a weekly column, "The Roving Country Reporter," for the *San Jose Mercury Herald* up to the time of her death in 1947. One of her brothers now works with the *Gilroy Gazette*. Mrs. Daney herself spent four years working with CALIFORNIA GARDEN.

We are inclined to feel that she got her start as flower grower from her father's interest beyond the newspaper. He was among the few who ventured into the Santa Clara Valley in 1890 to plant prune orchards. At that time, the State of California, having cleared the Mexican titles, was issuing land in 100-acre tracts.

At the Floral Association meeting in May, she presented a one-woman exhibit of fuchsias from her garden which was truly remarkable.

Mr. Eugene Daney is judge of the municipal court. They are both graduates of the University of California.

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Romance of The Rose

Raymond L. Fritz

Rose! What other word can you think of which has played such an important part in the pageant of world history, and become such a symbol of beauty and romance? It is simply magic the way it can take you to far off Persia, deep into the Arctic Circle, the vast plains of America, or the antiquity of ancient China.

From time immemorial its praise has been sung, and love for it can be traced through the most ancient documents in the literature of the Aryan race. It is interesting to note, however, that the rose has played an inferior part in the horticulture of the Japanese and Chinese, even though Asia has a greater number of wild forms of roses than Europe and America. Fossil remains prove that the rose grew and bloomed many thousands of years ago. Among the most ancient are fossils found in Colorado and Oregon which date back at least thirty-five million years. It is not difficult to understand why the history of the rose is greatly legend.

Each country has its legend of the creation of the rose. One of the most beautiful is that of Persia. In Persia the flowers rebelled against their queen, a lotus, because she grew sleepy at night and closed her petals when they wanted to hold high revel by moonlight. They appealed to Allah, the merciful, the compassionate, and he created a new flower, the white rose, so beautiful that they had to accept her as their queen. On the first night when she presided, the nightingale, seeing such perfect beauty, flew to embrace her, was impaled on her sharp thorns and there bled to death, staining her white petals; so came the red rose of Persia.

The legend of the rose in Greece was that at the instant Venus, the goddess of love and beauty, was born from the seas, the rose sprang spontaneously from the earth to greet her. In Greece the rose was dedicated to Venus. Being very versatile, it was also dedicated to Cupid for its powers of love, and to Aurora, the goddess of dawn, because the fragile flower of old held its beauty only till noon and was most lovely at dawn. It was also dedicated to Harpocrates, the god of silence, and thereby became the symbol of inviolable confidence. The ancient Greek poets sang the praises of the rose. Homer spoke of the rose in both the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*. Sappho spoke of the rose as a young maiden, a figure used by poets and composers ever since.

It was not only a lovely flower, but also an important one, as it entered into the lives of the people of that era much more than it has since. They made garlands of them which they hung on the statues of their gods; its petals were strewn before victorious armies; their custom of annually placing roses on the graves of

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their loved ones is still followed. It also supposedly had many medicinal powers; many of which were written about by the Greek philosopher Pliny, in his book on natural history, in the first century.

Apparently the very early Egyptians did not know the rose, for the first evidences of rose culture date to about 300 B.C. There have been various tombs discovered which contained roses, rose petals and rose garlands.

The use of roses has never been associated with black magic. There has apparently always been an association of roses with white magic which dealt with love potions, beauty and romance.

As the Roman Empire grew, the love for the rose spread. Apparently the Grecians and the Romans used and loved the wild roses which they had at hand, for there seems to have been no commerce in roses. That is, there is no history of their importing varieties from the near or far east. The fact that the Romans made much of the rose lies in some of the historical literature which credits a Roman banquet with costing as much as the equivalent of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for roses. Cleopatra, while staying in Rome, had a mattress made of rose petals necessitating millions of blooms. Of course, that doesn't seem like a lot of flowers to us now, when we think of a rose as having a cup of petals, but just remember that in that time many of the roses had only about five petals. Is it any wonder that the expression, "a bed of roses," has always meant the ultimate. Just imagine some three hundred thousand roses full of dew hand plucked in the early dawn for just one ounce of attar of roses. Fantastic, yes, but that was the life of the rose in the Romans' time.

History has recorded very little of the first westward migration of Asiatic roses to Europe. Such plants probably came from the nearby Holy Land, Arabia and Persia where the rose was revered for its beauty and its mystery. Some seem to have come direct from these countries and a few through Egypt to the gardens on the north shore of the Mediterranean. From about the time of Christ until the dark ages the rose was truly in her Golden Age.

When Rome fell, the barbarian hordes trampled out culture, art and literature with the black art of the dark ages with the exception of the church which held aloft a flickering light of learning and of culture. The rose was not forgotten by any means. From being the flower of the pagan gods, it came to be the flower of heaven and the saints. The early fathers of the church were wise; what they couldn't control they adopted and adapted. The early Christians had used the rose as a symbol of their faith during their early days of persecution, so the church could sponsor it when its pagan uses were over. From what were the early prayer beads made? They were made from rose petals, pounded, mixed with oil, rolled, dried, pierced and strung to become the rosary.

The golden rose was the highest gift of the Pope to those who had rendered some special service to the church, consecrated and presented with the wish that the recipient might "flourish as a rose planted by the stream of living water." One of the American recipients of this gift was General Lew Wallace for his novel *Ben Hur*. This custom still continues.

The old adage that there is some good in everything is quite well proven in the fact that the Crusades brought knowledge of the most famous of all roses to Europe. It was the wild rose of Syria, *Rosa damascena,* rose of Damascus, one of the oldest roses and truly one of the most fragrant. It probably grew in the gardens of Babylon. It was so admired that it was brought back to Europe by the Crusaders. This rose became so well established in France that the ancient botanists thought that it was indigenous of Provence, and therefore called it the rose of Provence. A princess of Provence sailed to England to marry an English king. Her family went along and took roses to England where a rose garden was planted. According to Shakespeare it was in this garden that the War of Roses had its origination. The House of York chose a white rose, and the House of Lancaster chose a red rose as their symbols. That war lasted for thirty years until Richard III of York was killed. The next year the two houses were united by marriage. Legend has it that the marriage of Henry III of Lancaster to Princess Elizabeth of York was brought about by the finding of a rose partly red and partly white on the same bush. This famous rose is, of course, York and Lancaster, which is still growing in our gardens. Another similar rose which is all tied up with English history is known as *Rosa Mundi* or Rose of the World.

Roses of the world. Many distant lands contributed scores of fine rose families to be happily wed and rewed so that the whole world could have the pleasure of modern roses. A few of the rose families are mentioned here.

NEXT ISSUE:

You will enjoy the observations of a California plantsman, Philip E. Chandler, who writes on "Road to the Basque Country."

Milton F. Leeper writes part two of "Landscaping of Modern Cemeteries."

Rosa centifolia, the old cabbage rose, probably originated in the Caucasus and was first cultivated in Persia. It is said to have reached Britain in 1596, and has been used in hybridizing for petalage and fragrance.

Rosa damascena, native about Damascus and in various portions of Syria. It is of special importance due to its fragrance, also for the making of attar of roses.

Rosa foetida, or Persian Yellow Rose, was known in England before 1607. This yellow rose gave us our yellow and gold shades in the roses which we know and love.

The most important migration of roses to our rose history was the great number of roses from China. We must remember that these roses brought the recurring or everblooming qualities to our spring blooming roses, thereby giving our spring blooming varieties an everblooming habit.

The *semperflorens* variety of *Rosa chienensis* was first brought to England in 1789.

Rosa odorata, the first double pink tea scented rose was brought to England in 1809. This variety gave us our tea scented roses.

Rosa bracteata, the very vigorous climbing rose, which is one of the most outstanding of all the parent roses, was introduced into England in 1765.

The person who did the most for roses was Empress Josephine, one of the most romantic figures out of the past. In the year of 1811 Empress Josephine of France started the world famous collection of roses at the gardens of Malmaison. She offered prizes for new varieties, and did much to encourage the improvement of the rose. In just a few years there were many thousands of new varieties and there began modern roses.

Mr. Perry, formerly assistant to John Morley, has directed the planting of our city with a deft hand and an imagination as colorful as the plants themselves.

W. Allen Perry

Ann Burnett

W. Allen Perry came back to San Diego simply because it was snowing in Iowa. Upon graduation from Iowa State College he had been offered a job in Boston as well as in San Diego. By the time he reached California, however, the nursery that had offered him a position had quietly folded.

The question of finding another job would be simple. With six years of college study and a degree in Landscape Architecture, employers would be eager for his service. They might have been, but in the early thirties the country was in the depths of a depression and eager young men were to be found anywhere. The Planning Commission of San Diego wanted someone with qualifications such as he had—and they quickly offered him a job. There was only one hitch—the job was *gratis.*

That job paid off big dividends, though, during the year the dividends were quietly hidden. He was given a drafting board across the hall from John Morley's office. Whenever Mr. Morley needed a draftsman he called upon Allen Perry.

When the second exposition was conceived, Mr. Perry was chosen by Mr. Morley to be landscape architect. He worked in this capacity until August, 1935, when he became Mr. Morley's assistant. When Mr. Morley retired, Mr. Perry became Director of the San Diego Park Department.

Today he acts as guardian of our parks, street trees and cemeteries. His one wish is to see more and more grassy plots developed and used in the great park system of San Diego.

When San Diego was young the city assigned land to certain organizations for use as cemeteries, operated independently of the city. As the years went by, however, more and more cemeteries were given back to the city to operate. In 1932 when the new city charter was adopted they placed the cemeteries directly under the Park Department. It is a $125,000 annual business.

Mr. Perry has hopes that some day the botanical building in Balboa Park can be restored. Originally built for Santa Fe Railroad Station, the Exposition Company bought it from the Santa Fe. During the War it served as a spot of beauty for convalescent military patients.

All flower and plant selections for the park are directly under Mr. Perry's supervision. Since money is a problem, the selection must be made for showiness, expense, and the manpower situation. More and more perennials are being used in borders.

It was lucky for San Diego that it snowed that day in Iowa.

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Has Mr. Quintana gone whimsical? If some of the parodies make you blush, you'll say he was sugar-coating the pill!

A Catalog of Ineradicable Garden Pests

F. C. Quintana

Considering what the average gardener has to put up with, I am convinced that he is a direct descendant of Job. His patience is limitless, and his persistence in the face of adversity positively Spartan. When I examine the catalog of hazards in the endless steeplechase of gardening, I cannot help but wonder where the gardener finds his courage.

He fights with soil and water, weather and wind, sun and shade, bugs and fungi, viruses and blights, sprays and fertilizers, Latin and Greek, and the terrible temptations of the seed catalogs. All of these things he seems to take in his stride, and seemingly he is ever happy in his private warfare. But there are certain pests over which he has no control, and from which he has scarcely any protection, unless he abandons the hobby and cements the entire yard.

It may be that you will recognize some of these pests. They seldom look like the more common insects, and fortunately they are highly migratory, rarely staying any one place for long periods of time. I suppose this is because the devastation they wreak is almost always sudden in character. It is difficult to say with certainty what they feed on, but the best estimations concur that it is mostly broken morale. The following list is not a complete one by any means, and I should be pleased for such additions as you might like to make to it.

1. *The Sharp-Eyed Weed-Spotter.* There are many varieties of this species, all of whom are related by the common denominator of their desire to find something wrong in your garden. The Weed-Spotter is an ambulatory pest who is generally silent as you lead him past a magnificent rose bed, or a collection of azaleas that are blooming their heads off. You hear no utterance as he examines your imported hybrid iris, and the most perfect tuberous begonia fails to brighten his eye. Then, as you are showing him a tomato vine that would have Burpee himself busting the buttons off his vest, this pest finds what he is looking for: a dandelion!!

2. *The Fan-Footed Seedling-Crusher.* There is only one specie of this slug, but he comes in two sizes. You can depend upon his arriving just as you have set out the last of a flat of zinnias. The larger type of FFSC is anxious to borrow your ladder, and is so intent upon his mission that, on his way to you, he cuts a wide swath through your newly planted bed. A special identifying characteristic of this pest is that, when you point out the damage, he promptly thrashes about in a wide circle under the impression that he is avoiding whatever is still left standing. The small size FFSC is usually preceded by a large heavy ball, and more often than not he arrives with several of his kind, all of whom engage in a struggle for the possession of it. A pest control measure involving a hairbrush is sometimes quite successful in this latter case.

3. *The Loud-Mouthed Mine-Are-Better.* Avoid this plague, unless you already have a psychiatrist. No one has ever seen his garden, and it is advertised only when he visits yours. If your dahlias are as large as a dinner plate, his are the size of a washtub. Should your sweetpeas have five flowers on a stem, his have seven. He regards your two-pound avocados as puny and not worth picking, and will acidly inquire what stunted your four-foot gladiolus spikes.

4. *The Stiff-Backed Strawberry Weevil.* Frequently, though not necessarily, this scourge is female, and she glibly praises your berry patch. This flattering attack disarms you, and you urge her to take some home. Before you know it, *your* back is aching from having picked two quarts of fruit for her, each berry having been inspected before you were allowed to harvest it.

5. *The Insatiable Blossom-Grabber.* This *bete noire* is usually a member of a group, civic or otherwise, and she is distantly related to the Strawberry Weevil. The impending doom to your rose garden, or your bed of snapdragons is forecast when the telephone rings. You are first flattered to the teeth about your garden and how it looks from the street to the passer-by, and then you are asked as a civic-minded citizen to contribute a few flowers to the decorations of such-and-such affair. This strikes you as reasonable and you make an appointment for the IBG to come by.

Two days later she arrives in a station wagon hauling a trailer loaded with buckets, and, accompanied by two Mexicans, who not only don't understand your English entreaties, but are deaf in the bargain, she strips every plant in the place. As she takes the dozen or so flowers you thoughtfully cut

in advance of her arrival and adds them to the total proceeds of your garden, she remarks that she would have sworn there was more. Totally smitten, you agree that from the street it did look like more. Three days later you are astounded to see her again, this time in the company of two other committee women, all of whom have come from the Town Council to advise you that if you don't do something about your messy-looking yard, you will be given a summons.

6. *The Near-Sighted Label-Shuffler.* This bramble is always curious about your greenhouse and what you might be propagating. He is never quite able to make out the labels in your seed pans and cutting frames, so, he plucks them out to see for himself. He prefers this to asking you a few "annoying" questions. He enjoys fondling four or five labels at a time, and when he puts them back (if indeed, he remembers to do it at all) it is a totally haphazard operation. Subsequently, it is disconcerting enough to discover that you have been weeding Virginia stock out of a pan marked *Strelitzia regina,* but when all your cymbidium backbulbs have names that sound like saintpaulias, you are in a fair way to lose some hair.

7. *The Nimble-Fingered Pollen-Snatcher.* There should be an open season for hunting this canker. He is more usually indigenous to flower shows, although he may visit your garden. If he does visit your place he will probably be a total stranger, a member of a garden tour group. He is vitally interested in hybridizing, and doesn't care a hang about existing flowers, except as parents. At flower shows, he likes to wander along the aisles a little way ahead of the judging party, and as he proceeds he snaps off *only* one or two flowers from the outstanding cymbidium spikes in the displays. As the judges come to your mutilated plant, they nod their heads wistfully, commenting that it is a shame that the symmetry is wrecked by the missing flowers and the broken stems.

8. *The Over-Zealous Cutting-Wormer.* Here is a fungus who has just discovered the business of propagating by means of cuttings. As she flits through your garden her first question about any plant is, "Will it grow from a cutting?" If it does, it might then occur to her to ask what the plant is. Your prize camellia is the thing that catches her eye. You have worked on this plant for years, feeding and spraying and carefully pruning it to a perfect, thrifty specimen. You make the mistake of admitting that it is possible to root slips. She cajoles you out of two or three prunings, and having done this, mentions that she has four friends in her garden class who would be so delighted to have slips too. Reluctantly you make a few more snips with your shears. She thereupon insists that you take at least three pieces for each, just in case of failures, and she then remembers her cousin Willie-Mae and Old Uncle Joe Masterson who would probably like to grow this plant too. By this time your vertigo has the better of you, and you hear yourself agreeing that if you could find an empty carton, she could take a few more slips out to some friends in La Mesa.

Later on, when the sedatives you have taken have worn off, you can't even find the camellia. When you question your wife, you discover that she has "given that scraggly, misshapen thing to her cousin Esmeralda, you know, the one who is so good at reviving half-dead plants."

9. *The Sad-Eyed It-Won't-Grow* and *The Thick-Skinned You'll-Be-Sorry.* This pair of mildews is not as harmful as some of the preceding species. The worst they can do is make you wish that you lived in a gravel pit, and had never heard of Aggler and Musser. They will give you fifty reasons why a plant won't grow where you have planted it, even though you point to the same thing in a similar situation just across the street. If the plant can be expected to succeed, you will be handed fifty assurances that you will curse the day you spotted it in the nursery. The most effective control for these Oracles of Doom is to turn off your hearing-aid.

10. *The Agile-Tongued Latin-Spouter.* It may be said of this smut that he is of minor consequence, sometimes even beneficial when you want to settle an argument. He may easily be controlled by never mentioning the common or local name of any plant whatsoever. If you must talk plants with this pedant, throw Mrs. Post to the winds, and use your index finger and a heavy sprinkling of impersonal pronouns. Together with this one, mention should be made of *The Sorcerer's Gadfly,* a moth who can recite at interminable length the most incredible superstitions, and recommend the most fantastic items as indispensable garden aids. His counterpart, *The Frustrated Science-Garbler,* is a bane who will launch into a post-doctoral dissertation at the drop of a manure fork.

I don't suppose there is any real (legal, that is) control for these pests, except perhaps to keep a few vicious mastiffs on your place. If you work it right, and the dogs are mean enough, they can provide you with good reason for taking up golf or scrabble, and staying out of the garden altogether.

Making easier your—

Garden Chores

Ada Perry

This is the vacation number, I believe, and it is very good to note a trend in '54 vacation preparations. This trend is very simple and very sensible. It is merely to order a suitable quantity of good steer several months or weeks in advance, and get it around the garden while planning what dresses to take on the trip, and so forth. One lot of steer went to a lady who was having a guest for her vacation and wished to have her garden well mulched to guard against a possible lapse in watering, due to an influx of reminiscing.

The steer mulch naturally is a buffer against any sketchy-type substitute waterer, or even the flood and drown type.

There are lots of places in a garden which is about to undergo a vacation where peat moss would be much more suitable than steer.

You can cut your steer and leaf mold mulches with a sludge fertilizer. It's a good moisture holder. Use the kind not stepped up with chemical nitrogen for this purpose, don't you think.

Another good use for the vacation steer and sludge is for next fall's sweet peas and snapdragons. Dig 'em in loosely and let 'em mellow.

It does sound like this advice is calculated to smell up your vacation, and please forgive me if you get this impression. But what is more promising for a successful winter than vacationing citizens, busy substitute waterers and all along the quiet streets light whiffs of the garden's best friend.

If you are staying home with your garden, why not spend some time getting acquainted with the pruning technique for the shrubs and trees you live with. It's really a panic what a great many of us don't know about our own shrubs, trees and vines. For instance, do you know that the syringa, the spiraea and the lilac and the wisteria need attention after blooming? For early summer cutting up, look to your bougainvilleas and hibiscus. A large calendar and a book on pruning for southern Cal goes good on your summer reading shelf. You know you get tired of those gooey magazine stories and those picture weeklies. (Not that this doesn't work the other way around. After wrestling half an hour with what a learned professor means about pruning wisterias, one is glad to get gooed up again with magazine fiction and informed by pictures of international situations.) But one does finally savvy more about the nature of a wisteria.

The nature of anybody or anything helps make the world go around, and plants in their way are responsive. That's why every gardener experiences satisfaction when his plants are successful. He's found out how to encourage the best in them. There's a lady over on Point Loma whose roses were a revelation to me this spring. They had been expertly pruned and fed. But with this expert care, there had been the extra insight to plant them quite far apart. I should add, rather waggishly, the extra room to do so, too. A Peace rose or Frau Karl Druschki or a Mission Bells that has all the room it wants is a gracious sight.

I'd like to say a word about summer watering. If you've found what your plants want, you needn't bother to pay any heed. But if you're still battling, give a listen. One of the top expert couples at wholesale plant growing I've visited has a dry garden at night. Since it is also very clean, it make you think of a fresh sheet. Well, they can't afford to have molds, mildews and rust spores. But you can't either unless you enjoy them. Which you don't. Watering much, much earlier in the day has its advantages. Also, finding out what's enough and then not splashing on any more.

Do you have an old beat up, too-tall aralia plant? Cut the thing off at ground level. The most beautiful new foliage and multiple branches appeared in at least one instance I know of. I never wanted an aralia myself, but now I think I'll buy one just to cut it off.

By the way, if your pillar rose, High Noon, has gotten skinny too far up from the ground, some brisk cutting back makes it develop more low shoots. It's a pillar, not a climber actually, you know. Speaking of pillars, that newish Descanso Pillar can develop some exquisitely formed buds and half open flowers. The picture they publish of it shows some rather blowsy blooms which don't do it justice. It's a mildew resistant. The new canes a good plant shoots up are something to see. Believe this rose could fill up quite a large vacancy and just leaning lightly on something looks to be enough. Sunny corner of a tall redwood fence. Yum.

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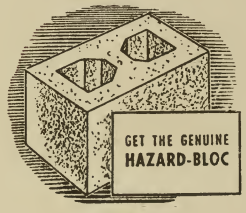

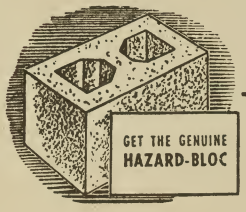

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